

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.-30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) A device to measure a degree of acquisition comprising:

a measuring portion that measures a deoxy-Hb amount in a predetermined measuring region of a brain of a subject when the subject repeatedly conducts one work several times;

a diachronic change data producing portion that obtains the deoxy-Hb amount measured in the above-mentioned measuring portion chronologically and produces diachronic change data as data showing diachronic change of the blood volume amount or/and the blood component amount;

a waveform output portion that outputs a waveform of the diachronic change data in each work; and

an acquisition degree determining portion that determines a degree of acquisition of the subject for each repetition of the work based on the diachronic change data, the acquisition degree determining portion determining that the acquisition degree is low when the deoxy-Hb amount increases on the initiation of the work and determining that the acquisition degree is high when the deoxy-Hb amount remains generally unchanged or decreases irrespective of time change in diachronic change data during performing the work.

32. (New) The device to measure a degree of acquisition described in claim 31, wherein the predetermined measuring region is an area corresponding to a higher brain function portion.

33. (New) The device to measure a degree of acquisition described in claim 31, wherein the predetermined measuring region is set at the frontal lobe.

34. (New) The device to measure a degree of acquisition described in claim 31, wherein the measuring portion measures the deoxy-Hb amount by making use of a near-infrared spectroscopy.

35. (New) The device to measure a degree of acquisition described in claim 34, wherein the measuring portion is a type of one channel.

36. (New) The device to measure a degree of acquisition described in claim 31, in case a posture when the subject conducts a work is different from a posture when the subject does not conduct the work, wherein the deoxy-Hb amount is measured in a state when the subject does not conduct the work with taking a posture of conducting the work and a diachronic change of a value is calculated by subtracting a deoxy-Hb amount when the subject conducts the work from the deoxy-Hb amount measured in the above state is assumed to be the diachronic change data.

37. (New) A device to measure a degree of acquisition of a work skill comprising:
a measuring portion that measures one of a blood volume amount and a blood component amount in a predetermined measuring portion of a brain of a subject, during a first measurement when the subject is not working and during a second measurement when the subject is working from a start period to the completion point of time of the assignment of the work;

a diachronic change data producing portion that obtains one of the blood volume amount and the blood component amount measured in the above-mentioned measuring portion chronologically and produces diachronic change data as data showing diachronic change of the blood volume amount or/and the blood component amount based on the first measurement and the second measurement; and

an acquisition degree determining portion that calculates a degree of acquisition of the work skill for the subject is high when the diachronic change data remains generally unchanged or decreases irrespective of time changes from the start period to the completion point of time of the working activity.

38. (New) The device to measure a degree of acquisition described in claim 37, wherein that the predetermined measuring region is an area corresponding to a higher brain function portion.

39. (New) The device to measure a degree of acquisition described in claim 37, wherein the predetermined measuring region is set at the frontal lobe.

40. (New) A device for measuring strategy acquisition when a subject repetitively performs a predetermined assignment of work comprising:

a measuring portion that measures a deoxyhemoglobin amount in the blood in a predetermined measuring region of a brain of a subject during a first measurement when the subject is not working and during a second measurement from a start point to the completion point of time of the assignment of work for each performance of the work;

a diachronic change data producing portion that obtains the deoxyhemoglobin amount in the blood measured by the above-mentioned measuring portion chronologically and

that produces diachronic change data showing change of the deoxyhemoglobin amount in the blood from the first measurement and the second measurement results; and

an acquisition degree determining portion that calculates a degree of acquisition for each assignment of work performed by the subject by determining that a degree of acquisition of the work by the subject is high when the amount of deoxyhemoglobin tends to remain generally unchanged or decreases in the diachronic change data during the work in spite of the lapse of time and outputs the result.